
Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Congressional delegation to work toward reform of the Howard M. Metzenbaum Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA).

Crawford

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20091810

2009

HC 1017/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Congressional delegation to work toward reform of the Howard M. Metzenbaum Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA).

Whereas, The Multiethnic Placement Act was originally created to addresses the desire "to promote the best interests of children by ensuring that they have permanent, safe, stable, and loving homes that will meet their individual needs";

Whereas, The placement of children in permanent, safe, stable, and loving homes becomes more difficult as the number of children entering the child protective system increases;

Whereas, The Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services was established "to develop and provide an implementation plan to evaluate and address disproportionate representation of youth of color in Indiana's child welfare, education, juvenile justice, and mental health service systems";

Whereas, The Commission discovered that children of color are both overrepresented and underrepresented in Indiana's child welfare, education, juvenile justice, and mental health systems;

Whereas, The disproportionate representation of these children occurs despite the fact that there are no inherent differences in the rates at which they are abused or



neglected, according to the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect;

Whereas, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services report of September 2006, approximately 58% of the 513,000 children living in foster care placements were children of color although children of color represented only 42% of the child population in the United States;

Whereas, African American children are overrepresented in the child welfare system in every state and are less likely than children of other races to be reunited with their families; and

Whereas, Research on the disproportionate number of children of color in the child welfare system suggests that we should focus on key decision points such as investigations, substantiations, and placements to understand how experiences of children vary by race and ethnicity: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the Indiana
- 2 Congressional delegation to work toward reform of the Howard M.
- 3 Metzenbaum Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA).
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 5 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Indiana's
- 6 Congressional delegation.

